

VSP Public Comment

From: donfarkas@belairmail.com
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2005 10:09 AM
To: Secretary of State, Constituent Affairs
Cc: McDannold, Bruce
Subject: Standards for AVVPAT

Should California reject the proposed Diebold system? Vote=Yes

The proposed electronic voting machines are objectionable for many reasons, but primarily relating to placing the public in the position of having to "trust", but not be able to "verify" accuracy. "Trust, but verify" needs to be our motto not only in diplomacy but also in maintaining our democracy. Electronic voting machines are widely distrusted by voters due to (1) potential unreliability and inaccuracy without showing any external sign of malfunction, (2) lack of proper audit and vote verification capabilities due to inadequate "paper trail" design (needs to include mechanized and hand re-count capability, be durable and permanent for archives, not easily forged or counterfeited, can not be used to ID voter, etc.), (3) excessive cost required for acquiring and continuing maintenance, (4) having to rely on continuing maintenance for a complex system being provided by private companies that are not subject to oversight requirements of governmental agencies, (5) lack of ! flexibility for different types of potential future elections such as "instant runoff" elections, (6) potential for high costs of obtaining "upgrades and modifications", (7) need to obtain new certification for upgrades and modifications, (8) proposed designs having wireless and/or internet access, etc.

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Citizen Proposed Standards:

The AVVPAT shall be printed on single sheet non-thermal at least 16 pound paper, one record of vote per sheet.

Every recorded vote, no matter how recorded, shall have a AVVPAT copy.

The AVVPAT record of the vote shall be printed in a minimum of 12 point font.

The AVVPAT shall be printed and organized to be easily read by both the voter and election officials.

The AVVPAT during the 1% manual audit and any recount shall be physically verified and hand counted only.

The recorded vote choices on the AVVPAT shall not be audited or recounted by automatic or electronic methods.

There shall not be a method by which any particular voting record can be connected to any particular voter.

Any AVVPAT spoiled or rejected by a voter because of a voting system error shall not be counted as a spoiled ballot under the two spoiled ballots limit.

No remote access to voting machines by wireless or internet.